



Prologue

This report consolidates the requirements for the U.S. Customs Service (Customs) to produce an Agency Accountability Report, consistent with the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), and an Annual Financial Report pursuant to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (CFO Act), as amended by the Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (GMRA). It also supports the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) requirement to produce a Departmentwide Accountability Report as required by GMRA.

This Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 Accountability Report focuses on Customs mission accomplishments, presents financial management information, and represents on-going efforts to streamline statutory reporting requirements while providing useful information to internal and external customers. Customs financial statements, located in the latter part of this report, provide the financial position and results of Customs operations, pursuant to the requirements of 31 U.S.C. §3515. While the statements have been prepared from Customs books and records in accordance with the formats prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the statements are supplemental to the financial reports used to monitor and control budgetary resources prepared from the same books and records.

The statements should be read with the realization that they are for a component of the U.S. Government. One implication of this is that unfunded liabilities cannot be liquidated without legislation that provides the resources to do so.

Did you know?

Before 1789, each state had its own Customs Service that assessed Customs duties. Congress believed that the collections from the individual states were not going to release the Nation from its money problems. Therefore, Congressman James Madison proposed a Tariff Act that would place a duty on imports and establish an agency to ensure that the duties would be collected. On July 4, 1789, the Tariff Act (effective August 1, 1789) was passed by the first Congress and signed by President George Washington.